LOS ANGELES CHARTER SCHOOLS' DECLARATION TO PUT KIDS' EDUCATION FIRST

Whereas charter schools are public, free, and open to all students;

Whereas charter schools meet the unique needs of students and communities across LA, proving to be a critical part of LA's public education system;

Whereas charter schools put kids above bureaucracy by offering an individualized approach to public education while remaining highly accountable to state and federal education standards and local communities;

Whereas charter schools provide passionate teachers the flexibility to create dynamic lesson plans tailored to kids' individual needs;

Whereas charter public schools are proof that excellent public education is possible in LA;

Whereas the District itself has made clear that its financial crisis is driven by its own expenses and commitments, and by declining enrollment not due to charter schools;

And, whereas UTLA's rhetoric blaming charter schools for the district's financial challenges is tiresome, irresponsible and politically motivated.

As the District and labor partners negotiate and United Teachers Los Angeles threatens to strike, <X Public Charter School Leaders, representing X Public Charter School Organizations serving X students in Los Angeles>, the undersigned, hereby declare our commitment to putting kids' education first—no matter what.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

> We respectfully ask that UTLA and the District keep our students, families, and schools out of politics and bureaucratic demands.
>
> If a strike occurs at district schools:
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> > Charter public schools will remain open so the kids we serve will continue to learn.
> >
> > Charter educators will ensure that charter students have disruption-free, uninterrupted access to a high-quality learning environment on campus.
> >
> > Charter public schools will continue to welcome all students who choose to enroll in our schools.

The Los Angeles charter community supports the rights of all families to choose the high-quality public school option that is the best fit for their child, and will continue to strive to ensure that families in all communities have access to these high-quality options.

The charter community hopes for a quick and effective resolution to UTLA and the District's negotiations that puts students' interests first.

Signed,

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